

Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 - Expedited Procedure

Serial No.: 10/059,697

Examiner: Sargon N. Nano

REMARKS BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Claims 1-34 remain in this application. No claims have been amended or canceled.

Claims 1-34 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by *Kumar* et al. (6,269,080). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Under a 102 rejection, *Kumar* must include within its four corners, each and every element of, in the detail and the manner of, the claims of the invention. Applicant respectfully asserts that *Kumar* does not teach or disclose sending an acknowledgement of a request for altering the membership status of a receiver in response to receiving a request to alter a multicast group status of the receiver. In response to the previous argument, the Office Action states that *Kumar* has a provision for **notifying** a requesting system when a membership request is lost or denied in that if there is an absence of data transmission the requesting system detect this absence and re-request the data transmission (col. 6 line 64-col.7, line10 and fig. 4). Applicant fails to see any **acknowledgement** to the requesting system of the status of the request to receive data. It simply suggests that the receiving system knows something must be wrong because no data was received, this is not an affirmative acknowledgement sent which indicates the status of the membership request (such as, for example, was the request lost, or accepted, or denied).

The presently claimed invention addresses the problem of prior systems not having a provision for notifying a requesting system when a particular **membership** request is lost, or **accepted, or denied (and can include information of cause of denial)**, for example.

These Membership Acknowledgement messages can be used by set top box, for example, to display a message on the member's television indicating the membership status. For example, if a negative acknowledgement message is received, the set top box could display a message to the member indicating that his request to join a multicast group has been denied. Further, the negative acknowledgement messages can further include cause information (claim 5) as to why the request was denied. Causes could include; not authorized, network busy, insufficient resources on the network connection (see page 11, line 23 – page 12, line 8)

Claim 1 states, receiving an Internet Group Management Protocol (IGMP) Membership Report message designating a request for altering a present membership status with respect to designated multicast information; and determining a membership action associated with the IGMP Membership Report message; and preparing a membership acknowledge message in response to determining the membership action, wherein the membership acknowledgment

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message designates a resulting membership status associated with the request for altering the present membership status; and transmitting the membership acknowledge message for reception by a requesting system. Applicant has review *Kumar*, and particularly those sections cited by the Office Action, and can find no teaching of the combination of the above-mentioned aspects of Claim 1.

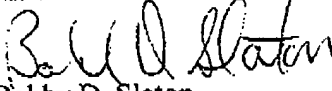
Under a 102 rejection, *Kumar* must include within its four corners, each and every element of, in the detail and the manner of, the claims of the invention. Since *Kumar* does not teach every element as arranged in Claim 1, it should be withdrawn as a reference under 35 USC 102(e). Applicant respectfully applies the same arguments to the other independent Claims 12, 13 and 24 as they contain similar elements as note above with regard to Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant believes all independent claims (and all claims depending therefrom) are distinguishable over *Kumar*.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and full allowance granted. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact Bobby Slaton at (972) 519-2295.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 30, 2006

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